Volume 8, Edition 3 March

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

2004

SOMEONE IN THIS CLUB MUST BE IRISH

THE MEETING'S ON SAINT PADDY'S DAY, BEGORRAH, BEGORRAH!

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

As I sit and write this article, I am asking myself, "Why aren't you outside working on antennas. The weather is so nice." With spring approaching, its time to get out and get those outside projects done, (ham radio projects, that is.) The winter rains can cause corrosion on antennas, which can affect performance.

Our ham class is under way with five students. Thanks to all the instructors for making this possible. Anyone is welcome to come and help. The classes are held at the Fire House in Sonoma, starting at 6:30pm.

The ARRL DX contest was last weekend and the bands were in great shape. I was surprised to see Europe coming in on Sunday morning on 15 meters. Even 10 meters was good for 46 QSO's. Even heard a lot of Europe on 40 meters on Saturday night, but my antenna showed up with a high SWR, so couldn't work any of them. Another trouble shooting job. I managed 195 QSO's, which included 75 countries. It was interesting to see how many DX stations were only using 100 watts and still putting out a good signal.

The state of Hawaii has two bills pending that would allow hams in condominiums and those with homeowner's association covenants to put up antennas. Check out the ARRL website for all the details.

This month's meeting will be at McDougal Hall and the program will be a couple of videos produced by Kermit, W6JFN. These videos show the history of the club, so should be very interesting to see.

The main business will be the planning and organizing of the April Hamfest. This is a club activity and a lot of help is needed.
Please attend so that we can get the job roster made.

73, Jim

FLEA MARKET MOVES

The Electronics Flea Market (previously known as the Foothill Flea Market) is held every 2nd Saturday, March through October. It has moved to north Sunnyvale near Moffett field. Talk-in is on 148.27- or 145.23- (both 100 Hz pl). For more details,
restrictions and maps, see www.asvaro.org/fleamarket.shtml.

FOR SALE

Complete HF station. All Yaesu ("Yaesu Twins")
Fl 101 Transmitter
FR 101 Receiver (Digital model)
Fl 2100B Linear Amplifier (tunes the 10M band)
Sp 101 PB Speaker /patch
YO 101 Monitor scope
FS-600A Power/standing wave meter
Microphone Swan CM 17L
All the above mounted in a steel desk
Complete documentation. $600 delivered.
Kermit Parker, W6JFN 996-6121

VOMARC MINUTES, FEBRUARY 18, 2004

Program for the evening was presented by Richard Shappee, retired from Northrup Corp. Richard has been a ham since 1950. The program was on radio technology from the 1920's & 30's. He showed a slide presentation of a radio he built with 1927 technology, plus a short, non-
technical presentation on the evolution of Radio. There was another short presentation on microphones. He has quite a collection of microphones and is interested in collecting more.

The meeting was called to order at 8:45PM. There were 22 present.

The minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's report:
Approximately $1800 on hand. Dues are due and payable now. If you have not paid yours, please give Eileen, the membership chairperson, or Ken, the treasurer your money.

Website report: The dates on the website are current. The local VE session dates are posted, but not the SCRA dates. Jan Bush will be making the website more layperson friendly as time goes on.

Old Business:

Solar panels: Those that were at Steve Todd's house are now at Jim Hill's house. The broken panels will be sold at the Ham Fest. They still put out 90v & 1/2 amp with poor sun. Darrel has four more panels. Jan Bush has a 12v panel he will donate to the club.

The trailer is licensed.

At the VE session, there were three candidates. All were taking the general exam and all passed. Congrats to Dave from our club who upgraded to general.

There are still net control positions available for VOMARC net for July and August. Volunteers are welcome.

The new Ham Class starts next week (Feb 24th) at the fire station. We are still trying to place flyers at various schools and at Albertson's bulletin board. Ed Jacobson will put a flyer in his store and we will try to get Radio Shack to keep one handy in their store even though they can't display it due to corporate policy. Instructors for the course will be Darrel, Mike, Ed, Ken, Jim, & possibly other volunteers. The data is on the Web site.

We still need to finish the circuit boards, and we need more coils.

Hamfest: Darrel has the national publications notices out. Joan has the paperwork and contract submitted to the county. We need to advertise, advertise, advertise the Ham Fest to make it successful.

Field Day: Jim Hill met with the ranger for Maxwell Park. he OK'd Maxwell Park for our use for the Field Day event. Jill at the Park & Recs Dept needs to approve our application. Joan will submit the application. Only four can stay over night and only two to three cars can be at the actual site. Everyone else will need to park in the regular parking lot, pay the parking fee, and walk to the picnic area where the club station will be located. Sanford Smith has a portable hex beam we can use for filed day. The ranger says any generators we use need to be the quiet kind. There may be a 110V electric outlet at the picnic site for lights. Jan Bush has a 110 inverter we can use.

ACS report: The ACS information is part of the VOMARC website. Please use the web site to get information about ACS activities. The upcoming activities are: Hit the Road Jack run the first week end in June. The course will be the reverse of that used in the past. Ken would like to have more people in the leadership position for this event. Fourth of July Parade. Liberty Ride, unit 29/29 will be in use for the Liberty Ride. Vintage Festival parade in September. There was a new SOP passed out. For those not in attendance, the

SOP will be distributed by e-mail. There will be a surprise drill sometime in March.

._ _._ (AC) is the @ sign for E-mail addresses in CW.

Steve Marler reports the fire department is being added to the North Bay weather website. There won't be sky conditions, but all other data will be available.

Eileen reports the Red Cross wants help setting up radios for the Chapter Building on Airport Drive in Santa Rosa. The suggestion was made to contact Alec McTaggart and his ACS group which is close to that location. The suggestion was also made to possibly try and get the county radio officer involved. Also, it was suggested that when people from VOMARC donate blood at the blood drives, they wear their VOMARC T-shirts. The next blood drive is the first week in March at the Veterans Memorial Building.

Condolences were expressed to Eileen whose daughter passed away this past week.

The drawing for the door prize was held. Dick Hannah won.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25PM

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Brady, W6WXU

Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio License TESTING

North Bay Schedule

Date	Time	Sponsor	City	Place
March 16, 2004	17:00	SMRS	Petaluma	Kennelworth Youth Center
March 21, 2004	13:30	NAPASARS	Napa	Napa Armory
March 27, 2004	09:00	Marin ARS	San Rafael	MARS Clubhouse, 27 Shell Rd
	09:00	SCRA	Santa Rosa	Agilent Technologies(HP)
April 24, 2004	09:00	VOMARC	Sonoma	Sonoma Veterans Building
May 18, 2004	17:00	SMRS	Petaluma	Kennelworth Youth Center
May 23, 2004	13:30	NAPASARS	Napa	Napa Armory
June 1, 2004	08:00	Hamilton Wireless Association	San Rafael	Building 549,Hamilton Field
June 19, 2004	09:00	Marin ARS	San Rafael	MARS Clubhouse, 27 Shell Rd

	09:00	SCRA	Santa Rosa	Agilent Technologies(HP)
August 7, 2004	09:00	VOMARC	Glen Ellen	Sonoma Developmental Center
	13:00	Silverado ARS	Napa	Napa College Comm Ed Center
August 24, 2004	09:00	Hamilton Wireless Association	San Rafael	Building 549,Hamilton Field
September 19, 2004	13:30	NAPASARS	Napa	Napa Armory
Sept 25, 2004	09:00	Marin ARS	San Rafael	MARS Clubhouse, 27 Shell Rd
	09:00	SCRA	Santa Rosa	Agilent Technologies(HP)
October 5, 2004	17:00	SMRS	Petaluma	Kennelworth Youth Center
November 2, 2004	09:00	Hamilton Wireless Association	San Rafael	Building 549,Hamilton Field
November 13, 2004	09:00	VOMARC	Glen Ellen	Sonoma Developmental Center
November 21, 2004	13:30	NAPASARS	Napa	Napa Armory
December 7, 2004	17:00	SMRS	Petaluma	Kennelworth Youth Center
December 18, 2004	09:00	Marin ARS	San Rafael	MARS Clubhouse, 27 Shell Rd

This is for all of those VOMARC members who have been wondering when they could upgrade. I've put the North Bay schedule from the VOMARC web page in this edition because we have a licensing class running right now. The class is scheduled to "graduate" at the VE session during the VOMARC Hamfest on April 24, but some of the students have asked about the possibility of testing-out earlier. We have a couple of students who might even be going for a higher license class during the VE session.

You can let those students serve as your inspiration. If you have put off upgrading because you've been too busy just before the VOMARC Hamfest, you can see from the schedule above that there are plenty of testing sessions near. Pick a date, get out your upgrade manual, and start reading.

Remember, it takes only a little effort to upgrade. The pay-off is the vastly expanded operating privileges that come with a higher license class. Technicians enjoy the world of VHF and above, but the world-wide operating, other that through satellite, happens on the HF bands open to General Class and above.

If you want to give it a try, come down to the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 Second Street West, on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm, and we'll see if we can get you started on that upgrade.

Sonoma Valley ACS Net Control Assignments

2004

Month	Call	Name
JANUARY	WB6TMH	MIKE
FEBRUARY	AE6FQ	JAN
MARCH	WD6BOR	DARREL
APRIL	K6ITE	GEORGE
MAY	KG6ASY	TIM
JUNE	KG6QNU	SAM
JULY	KF6QZP	CRAIG
AUGUST	KD6KVY	STEVE
SEPTEMBER	KF6FZM	DICK
OCTOBER	KG6QNT	EILEEN
NOVEMBER	W6WXU	JOAN
DECEMBER	KG6LJN	DAN

Those assigned to a particular month will also be expected to check into the SONOMA Op Area net at 1900 hours on 146.73 to represent Sonoma Valley and to give the check-ins from the week before. Be prepared to act as NCS on this net if Sonoma Valley is next in rotation. Bring any announcements back from that net to our S. V. local net at 1930 hours.

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 8 EDITION 3

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President

George Maurer, K6ITE– Vice-Pres

Joan Brady, W6WXU – Secretary

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Treasurer

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggert, N6KM – ACS

Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2nd Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as “SNV1EC”. “SNVGW” can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is “SNVND”.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa’s Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

WD6BOR@VOM.COM

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

Valley of the Moon ARC
1496 Nut Tree Lane
Sonoma, CA 95476

NOTICE!!! THE MARCH VOMARC MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, AT 7:30 P.M. AT MC DOUGAL HALL, SDC.
CU THERE!

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP
VOMARC 2004 Membership Dues: $10/year individual; $5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____
_____

Address:_____APT:
_____

City:_____State:_____ZIP:_____
_____

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____
_____

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____
_____

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____
_____

VOMARC: $_____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, or Jim K6UUW, 1496 Nut Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the January meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger, email Eileen KG6QNT at Eileen@vom.com. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**